



Jan.— Feb. 2025

The Trestle Board

A Publication of the Chillicothe Masonic Bodies

Inside this issue:

Election/Installation of Officers	1
Jan. Calendar	2
Feb. Calendar	3
Christmas Nativity Scene Sponsored	4
2025 Blue Lodge Inspection Schedule	4
Salvation Army Bell Ringing	4
Chill. Commandery Christmas Observance	5
Commandery Inspection Schedule	5
Special Thanks to Chillicothe Fire Department	5
Keith Bost- 50 Year Service Award Presentation	6
Veterans, Ladies, Widows Banquet	6
Picture This? Explanation	6
Schafer Twins to enter Boston Run	7
Annual Christmas Party	7
Scholarship Committee Request	7

Election of Officers

The annual election of officers for Scioto Lodge #6 took place as scheduled in the bylaws at the first Stated Meeting in the month of November on Tuesday Nov. the 5th. It was a very smooth election with the following officers being elected or appointed for the ensuing 24/25 year.

WM— Bro. Michael Smallwood	SS—Bro. Graham Matter
SW—Bro. Nicholas White	JS—Bro. Randy Swepton
JW— Bro. Paul Smallwood	Tyler—Bro. Joseph Clarke
Sec— W.B. James Fritz Schafer	Chaplain—W.B. Michael Ash
Treas— Bro. Ryan Adams	L.E.O.— W.B. Harold Ramsey
SD—W.B. Steven Grant	Trustee—W.B. Michael Ash
JD—Bro. Daniel Hines	

Installation of Scioto Lodge Officers



Officers of Scioto Lodge #6 were installed into their newly elected or appointed positions on the evening of November 20th at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments were enjoyed as family and friends were welcomed to join in the open ceremony. Installing Officers included, WB Michael Ash as Installing Officer, WB Harold Ramsey as Installing Secretary, WB Dan Riddle as Installing Chaplain and WB Michael Hines as Installing Marshall.

The picture to the left you see Monica, wife of the new Master, Michael Smallwood, who was invited to help seat the newly installed Master in his seat in the East.

JAN 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	3	4 Scioto Lodge #6 Inspection 8:00 Breakfast Logan Elm 624 Insp. 12:30
5	6	5 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	8 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	7	10	11 Winchester, West Union & Manchester Inspections all at West Union starting 9:00
12	13	12 Chillicothe Chapter # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Chillicothe Council # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	13	16 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	17	18 Orient 321 Inspection EA 9:00 am Lucasville 465 Insp. MM 1pm
19	20	21	22 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	21	24 Nauvoo 769 Inspection FC 7:00 pm	25 Marietta #50 Commandery Inspection 12:00
26	27	26 Chillicothe Commandery #8 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	27	30	31 Frankfort 309 Inspection FC 7:00 pm	

FEB 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Lynchburg 178 Inspection MM 9:00 am Highland 38 Insp. 12:00 EA
2	3	10 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	11	6 Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	7 Grand Master's Reception Greenfield High School 7:00 pm with doors opening at 6pm	8 Bainbridge 196 Inspection MM 10:00 am
9	10	17 Chillicothe Chapter # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Chillicothe Council # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	12 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	19	14	15 Athens #15 Comm. Insp Western Sun 91 Aurora 48 Insp. 3:00 & 6:00 pm Both in FC
16	17	18	19	20 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	21	22 Ohio Valley #24 Commandery Inspection 12:00
23	24	25 Chillicothe Commandery #8 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	26 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	27	28 Rome 535 Inspection FC 7:00 pm	

Masonic Christmas Nativity Scene



The above Nativity Scene had been on display at the Pump house Art Gallery this past Holiday Season in Yoctangee Park for the many visitors touring the spectacular Christmas Light display to enjoy. What a special opportunity it is for Scioto Lodge to keep the meaning of Christ in Christmas in our community. This would not have been possible without the efforts of the individuals pictured who took time out of their already busy schedules to transport, construct and light this beautiful exhibit. Pictured are WB’s Evan Steele, Stephen Steele, Harold Ramsey Jr., Michael Ash (not pictured) and Bro. Randy Swepston. Special thanks to Bro, John Payne for his help in allowing us to place this Nativity Scene and the Hess family who loaned us the historical figurines used in the Manger setting.

Seventh Masonic District 2025 Inspection and Events Schedule							
Lodge and No.	Location	Date	Time	Degree	Worshipful Master	DDGM	DEO
Scioto 6	Chillicothe	1/4/25	9:00am	MM	Michael C. Smallwood	Knight	Johnson
Logan Elm 624	Kingston	1/4/25	12:30pm	MM	Brandon M. Mahoney	Sheeley	Moore
Winchester 236	West Union	1/11/25	9:00am	MM	R. Richard Roberts	Sheeley	Moore
West Union 43	West Union	1/11/25	11:00am	FC	John C. Houghton, III	Knight	Moore
Manchester 317	West Union	1/11/25	1:00pm	EA	Andrew J. Steadman Jr.	Sheeley	Moore
Orient 321	Waverly	1/18/25	9:00am	EA	Edward S. Dings	Sheeley	Johnson
Lucasville 465	Lucasville	1/18/25	1:00pm	MM	Kevin A. Kennedy	Knight	Johnson
Nauvoo 769	W. Portsmouth	1/24/25	7:00pm	FC	Terry E. Dunn	Sheeley	Johnson
Frankfort 309	Frankfort	1/31/25	7:00pm	FC	Luke Rippeth	Knight	Moore
Lynchburg 178	Hillsboro	2/1/25	9:00am	MM	H. Stephen Bailey	Knight	Johnson
Highland 38	Hillsboro	2/1/25	12:00pm	EA	Gary E. Brown	Knight	Johnson
Bainbridge 196	Bainbridge	2/8/25	10:00am	MM	Bradley J. Minney	Knight	Moore
Western Sun 91	Wheelerburg	2/15/25	3:00pm	FC	Jeffrey S. Jones	Sheeley	Johnson
Aurora 48	Portsmouth	2/15/25	6:00pm	FC	Justin R. Lindamood	Sheeley	Johnson
Rome 535	Stout	2/28/25	7:00pm	FC	Gene K. Bailey	Sheeley	Moore
Leesburg 78	Leesburg	3/7/25	6:00pm	FC	Brian S. Vance	Knight	Moore

ALL INSPECTION MEALS BEGIN 45 MINUTES PRIOR TO TIMES LISTED ABOVE

2025 Inspection Season

The 7th Masonic District Inspection Season is once again led by Scioto Lodge #6 as has been the custom for many years. Saturday January 4th at 8:15 am a breakfast will be enjoyed for all attending with work in the Master Mason degree to follow. We are in need of as many members to attend as possible to fulfill the non-speaking parts in the Craft Team. Please come out and support our Lodge and WM Michael Smallwood.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Chillicothe Masonic Lodge once again helped ring the Salvation Army collection bell for donations this past Holiday Season. Members took turns in 2 or 4 hour shifts manning the kettle at Walmart and Kroger on Western Ave. Customers who were lucky enough to be at these locations while WB Michael Hines was ringing the bell, was also subjected to Christmas Carols being sung in a wonderful and jolly voice.

Pictured to the far right is WB Michael Hines who spear headed the coordination of the event and to his right making a donation is WB Terrell Fairrow.



Chillicothe York Rite Bodies

Chillicothe Commandery #8

“The Christian Order of Freemasonry”

Chillicothe Sir Knights participated in our annual Christmas Observance at the December Stated meeting which was moved to December 17th to avoid meeting on Christmas Eve this year. The Commandery stated meeting was held and then closed prior to inviting guests into the Red Room to participate in the toasts to Christmas.

This was very special this year as one of the toasts to be read was prepared by our very own Michael Hines, Grand Prelate, and read by the very same.



Pictured above left is P.C. Michael Hines, Prelate and Grand Prelate of the Grand Commandery of the State of Ohio, P.C. Roger Jones, Generalissimo and P.C. Michael Ash, Captain General and Grand Warder of the Grand Commandery of the State of Ohio.

Pictured to the right are SK Michael Smallwood, SK Nickolas White, SK Roger Jones, SK Michael Hines, SK Eugene Hardman, Eminent Commander, SK Michael Ash, SK D.C. Palmer, SK Joe Clarke, SK William Bennett, SK John Ashton, SK Bradley Peters and his son ?. Not pictured are SK Thomas Castor and Lady Treva Hardman.

The Commandery Inspection season is fast approaching with the completion of the Right Eminent Grand Commander, Dale Exline’s, Commandery already in the books. Chillicothe Commandery will be practicing the Full Form Opening at the next few stated meetings with special meetings of the officers taking place to practice the Order of the Temple.

The Grand Commander’s message this year is “Christ Gives us Direction”. He has been a surveyor most of his life and a follower of Christ so this is an obvious choice to him and close to his heart. His goal is to raise money for the Holy Land Pilgrimage where ministers are sponsored to attend a trip to the Holy Lands so they can better spread the gospel upon their return.

2025 Inspection Dates

		O. T.	FFO	Banquet
Dec. 14*	Jackson #53	1:30	3:30	12:00
Jan. 25	Marietta #50	1:30	3:30	12:00
Feb. 15	Athens #15	1:30	3:30	12:00
Feb. 22	Ohio Valley #24	1:30	3:30	12:00
Mar. 8	East Central Department - No Inspections			
Mar. 15	Chillicothe #8	1:30	3:30	12:00
Mar. 22	Lancaster #2	1:30	3:30	12:00
Apr. 13	Holy Week	-	No Inspections	

*Jackson #53 Inspection is December 14, 2024

Masonic Temple Association

We would like to thank members of the Chillicothe Fire Department for helping us retrieve 130 loose bricks that gave way above the soffit surrounding the southeast top of the building, which was a safety issue to those below.

Pictured in the bucket truck were WB Evan Steele & Bryon Cox handing bricks to WB Stephen Steele. Not picture on the roof were WB Harold Ramsey Jr and WB Michael Ash stacking bricks and Bro. Jeremy Weaver who was tending to the fire truck and pedestrian safety at ground level.



WB Keith Bost 50 Year Service Award Presentation



Pictured from left to right: WM Terrell Fairrow, District Deputy Rex Knight, WB Keith Bost, WB Michael Ash and RWB Roger Bost, older brother to Keith.

WB Keith Bost was presented his 50 year service award on Nov. 5th during the stated meeting.

Keith is not only a Past Master and a Knight of the York Cross of Honour but has also held many other positions within Scioto Lodge such as Masonic Temple Board Secretary/ Treasurer over the course of his membership.

Thank you Keith for your many years of service.



Veterans, Ladies and Widows Night Banquet

Scioto Lodge #6 held a joint banquet in the Moll Dining Room to honor those who served our military, ladies and friends as well as widows of fallen brothers. This took place on Friday November the 8th at 7:00 pm in the fourth floor Moll Dining Room. A good time was had by all as we introduced guests but did not have an official program so those attending could catch up with old friends or make new ones as the case may be after the delicious meal.

Picture This?

This issue of Picture This in the Trestle Board is a photograph of the small archive room found in the basement located just underneath the front entrance doors of the Temple. Due to a steam leak from a 4 inch steam line that was located over top the cement ceiling of the archive room producing condensation from cooling, the archives had to be removed to prevent them from being destroyed. The below pictures are the archives dating back to the mid 1800's laid out to be sure they are as dry as possible.

We are currently looking for members interested in sorting and assembling these archives in a manner to help store and preserve them for future generations to enjoy. Anyone interested in such a task should contact the lodge secretary, WB James Fritz Schafer at 740-774-3485 and leave a message. Thank you!



Schafer twins scheduled to tackle the Boston Marathon after their 60th Birthday in 2026



Congratulations to WB Fritz Schafer and his twin brother Mark who finished the Rocket City Marathon in Huntsville Alabama in 3hrs 45 minutes, which is good enough to qualify for the Boston Marathon on Patriots Day, April 20, 2026. It will also be their 60th Birthday.

"A couple years ago we looked ahead to see when the Boston Marathon would be run when we were 60, because we knew that the qualifying times increase every 5 years. When we saw it would be on our birthday, we committed to a two year plan to get in shape and go for the required time." Fritz commented. "We kept each other accountable for the training which I think helped a lot."

Scioto Lodge #6 Annual Christmas Party



Scioto Lodge held their annual Christmas Party on Saturday December 7th in the 4th floor Social Rooms to help kick off the holiday season. Everyone attending had a wonderful time with delicious food and great fellowship as you can see in the pictures taken above. This is the first event every new Worshipful Master is expected to organize and many thanks goes out to all who assisted and attended in this fun event.

Seeking Members to Assist in the Masonic Scholarship Committee Process

We are looking for about 2 - 4 members who would be interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee for the 2025 calendar year. Responsibilities include drafting and distributing scholarship applications, attending presentation / award ceremonies at respective High Schools and of course the selection process which includes sorting and organizing applications and meeting for discussions on winning applicants.

A Publication of the Chillicothe Masonic Bodies

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Return Service Requested



Transportation to Lodge Meetings / Functions	Picture This?
<p>It has come to our attention there may be a need for some of our members who are no longer able to drive at night or simply do not feel comfortable driving to our meetings who may want to be picked up prior to the meeting and/or taken home when the meeting is concluded. If you are in a situation that you would find this service helpful, several of your Brothers have agreed to help with this endeavor to ease the burden of your family and friends.</p> <p>Simply call the Lodge at 740-774-3485 at least 24 hours prior to the function you wish to attend so arrangements can be made of who is available to pick you up or drop you back off. Leave a message with your name, phone number and address to make a better choice of who your driver will be. The WM Terrell Fairrow has also asked that his cell phone number 740-701-1946 be included if you should have any questions or need further assistance.</p> <p>Anyone willing to help pick up a member on your way to Lodge should make your wishes known to the secretary.</p>	A photograph showing a storage area with wooden shelves. There are some items on the shelves, including a plastic container in the foreground. The walls appear to be made of concrete or stone.